Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0590_12

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Regulation and compliance costs

"Will the Minister provide: a list of all the instances (including the program) where the Department requires universities to provide information or data to the Department (to qualify for funding, to comply with any law or regulation, or any other reason)?; What information the university has to provide in each instance?; An estimate of the cost (in terms of man-hours or expenditure) that the university has to incur in order to provide that information or data?; The timing and frequency of each reporting requirement? "

Answer

Under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* universities must provide the Minister with a variety of information and reports throughout the calendar year.

This information is used to determine funding allocations under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) or to account for project funding that has been provided under the *Other Grants Guidelines* of HESA.

The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* primarily provides for the Commonwealth to give financial support for higher education and certain vocational education and training providers:

(a) the Commonwealth Grant Scheme which provides for a specified number of Commonwealth Supported places each year;

(b) the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) arrangements providing financial assistance to students;

(c) the Commonwealth Scholarships; and

(d) a range of grants for specific purposes including quality, learning and teaching, research and research training programs.

Under section 19-70 of HESA, all higher education providers approved under HESA must give to the Minister such statistical and other information that the Minister requests in writing.

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Project progress reports are also required for infrastructure funding provided through the *Nation-building Funds Act 2008*.

Higher Education Data Collection

The Higher Education Student Data Collection encompasses enrolments, equivalent full time student load (unit of study data) and completions, and is reported by all higher education providers approved by HESA 2003. Information on the different data elements collected can be found at:

http://heimshelp.deewr.gov.au/sites/heimshelp/2011_data_requirements/pages/highe reducationstudent_elementsbynumber

The Higher Education Staff Data Collection encompasses full-time equivalence, highest qualification and academic classification. Information on the different data elements collected can be found at:

http://heimshelp.deewr.gov.au/sites/heimshelp/2011_data_requirements/pages/highe reducationstaff_elementsbynumber

Statistical data is submitted and verified through the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) with different timings required for specific parts of the collection. Higher education providers submit data to the department through HEIMS 4 times a year. The timing matrix for data reporting is available at:

http://heimshelp.deewr.gov.au/sites/heimshelp/2012_Data_Requirements/2012Highe rEdStudent/Documents/HEStudentTimingMatrix2012.pdf

Current data verification involves two stages: Data validation (4 weeks) and verification (4 weeks). Full year student data released around August each year.

Commonwealth Grant Scheme and HECS-HELP

The administration of the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) and HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP require universities to provide the department with:

- CGS load estimates, HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, OS HELP and SA HELP estimates (twice a year, April and September);
- Schedule of student contribution amounts and tuition fees (twice a year, April and October); and
- An annual CGS funding agreement with forward estimates of EFTSL by course, by funding cluster (November).

Universities must also provide the Department with an annual financial statement in June.

Program Reporting

Universities are also required to provide reporting on funding provided for specific programs in order to meet conditions of grant. These include:

- Milestone reports as required for capital grants programs – Education Investment Fund; Structural Adjustment Fund; Better Universities Renewal

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Fund; Capital Development Program; Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Higher Education.
- Reporting for equity programs – Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (annual, March); Commonwealth Scholarships Program (twice yearly, March and August); Indigenous Support Program (annual, May); Disability Support Program (annual, March).

International

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act* (ESOS) provides a framework that protects Australia's reputation for delivering quality education services and the interests of overseas students by setting out standards, roles and responsibilities for education institutions that teach overseas students, as well as providing tuition and financial assurance for students for courses for which they have paid.

Under the ESOS framework universities are asked to provide the following information:
- International student enrolments through the Provider Registration and International Students Management System (PRISMS) data collection (real time update). This includes contact details of accepted students, details of the course for which they have been accepted and any subsequent change in the course. Universities are also required to provide details of any breaches of the prescribed visa conditions of a student visa as soon as practicable after the breach occurs.
- Provider and course details for all courses offered to international students through the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) (data submitted as required when changes are made to courses/providers)

Institutional Performance Portfolio (IPP)

DEEWR, in partnership with DIISR, has also collected information through the annual Institutional Performance Portfolio Information Collection (IPPIC) process in July. DEEWR has required universities to provide the following information:

1. Student load planning (2-3 pages)
2. Financial planning (1 page)
3. Capital asset management survey (pro forma)
4. Community engagement (1 page)

Other Information

Universities also provide updates to the department for:
- Courses offered offshore by Australian providers (university initiated update)
- Direct applications made to universities (twice a year, February and May)
- Provider profiles for the study assist website (university initiated update)

Universities are not required to report the costs of reporting compliance to DEEWR.